

31 October 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence

SUBJECT : CIA Requirements for Current Meteorological Data

REFERENCE : a. Memo from Director Central Intelligence, to JMC,
above subject, dated 16 September 1949
b. Memo for Director Central Intelligence, from JMC,
above subject, dated 5 October 1949

1. This memorandum summarizes progress achieved to date and future action contemplated with respect to the above subject. This matter is being coordinated actively with ORE and OCD.

2. In reference a, CIA pointed out its need for current intelligence on meteorological conditions affecting agriculture and other economic subjects with respect to USSR and satellite countries and requested that it be advised as to the procedures necessary for obtaining this data, utilizing the facilities and personnel of the appropriate U. S. Weather Service.

3. In reference b, JMC stated that CIA's request was being submitted to the Sub-committee on Climatology for comments and recommendations and invited CIA to send representatives to the pertinent meetings of the Sub-committee.

4. On 14 October 1949, representatives of OSI, ORE, and OCD attended a meeting of the Sub-committee on Climatology. On 19 and 21 October 1949 informal meetings were held between representatives of OSI and the Chairman, JMC, Dr. Francis W. Reichelderfer, who is also Chief, U. S. Weather Bureau and the Chief, Air Weather Service, Brig. Gen. D. M. Yates. As a result of these meetings, OSI was advised verbally by JMC on 21 October 1949 that CIA's requirements would be met by the Weather Bureau, supported as necessary by the Air Weather Service, USAF. Written confirmation is expected from the JMC in the near future.

5. The Weather Bureau will be able to handle the project as an unclassified matter, without reference to CIA. Mr. Eberly, Office of the Chief, U. S. Weather Bureau, has been designated as the contact for CIA on this project.

6. It is planned to utilize an established Weather Bureau publication, Monthly Climatic Data of the World, but to improve it as to timeliness, quantity and quality of the data in response to CIA's requirements. Since CIA is already receiving this publication, no further collection action is necessary except to expedite receipt to meet CIA deadlines.

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7. In addition to meeting an urgent need of CIA, this project will improve the current meteorological intelligence needed by other governmental departments and agencies as well as non-governmental institutions and research organizations.

8. Estimates of the cost of the project are being obtained in order that full details may be referred to the Project Review Committee for approval. Since established facilities are to be utilized, it is believed that cost will be nominal and that the ultimate benefits accruing to the government will far outweigh the cost.

/s/ Willard Machle
WILLARD MACHLE

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